



OFFENDER RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting. The Offender Re-Entry Task Force meeting was held June 19, 2015, at the Department of Corrections ([DOC](#)) Central Office. This Task Force serves as the steering committee for the Statewide Recidivism Reduction Initiative (SRR). This initiative is funded by a \$3.0 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs through the Bureau of Justice Assistance ([BJA](#)) for three years. The DOC partnered with the Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy ([ODCP](#)) in the grant application and implementation of the grant award. The DOC is focusing on building partnerships with state and local government agencies and nonprofit entities to build capacity and sustainability.

Steering Committee. The Committee is composed of members of the public, the DOC, the Departments on Aging, Human Services, Education, Human Rights (Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division (CJJPD)), Public Health, and Public Safety; ODCP, the Governor's Office, Community-Based Corrections (CBC) District Departments, District Court, Board of Parole, Magellan Health Services, Iowa County Attorneys Association, Iowa Finance Authority, Iowa Police Chiefs Association, Iowa Workforce Development, Judicial Branch, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Office of the State Public Defender, United Way, U.S. Department of Veterans Administration, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, and members of the General Assembly.

Discussion. Recidivism Reduction Coordinator Beth Skinner introduced two staff members funded by the grant – Roxann Scheffert and Mike Boatman. They will serve as Quality Assurance Specialists to support the efforts of the steering committee to reduce recidivism. The task force received presentations on and discussed:

- Work release and offender legal status that limits offenders' ability to receive social security benefits.
- Housing for difficult to place offenders, such as mentally ill offenders.
- Interventions and responses for violators of conditions of parole and probation.
- Develop a joint re-entry policy for medical and mental health resources.

Future Meeting. The Steering Committee is planning a future meeting with the Governor's Office and other stakeholders.

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